In the Claims:

69. (Currently amended) The packing cartridge according to Claim 68, wherein the telescoping structures and the means for axially retaining allow for squeezing of the first abutment ring and the second abutment ring co-axially closer to one another after positioning the packing cartridge in the packing bore.

Cancel Claims 70-74 (which were on omitted page 54), the subject matter of which is newly presented as Claims 127-131.

75. (Currently amended) The packing cartridge according to Claim ~~71~~ 128, wherein the telescoping structures and the means for axially retaining allow for squeezing of the first abutment ring and the second abutment ring co-axially closer to one another after positioning the packing cartridge in the packing bore.

76. (Currently amended) The packing cartridge according to Claim ~~71~~ 128, further comprising: a spring operatively positioned between the first abutment ring and the second abutment ring.

79. (Currently amended) A packing cartridge according to Claim ~~71~~ 128, further comprising: packing positioned between the first abutment ring and the second abutment ring.

82. (Currently amended) The packing cartridge according to Claim ~~71~~ 128, wherein the first abutment ring is integrally formed with the first sleeve portion and the second abutment ring is integrally formed with the second sleeve portion.

127. (New) The packing cartridge according to Claim 69, wherein the telescoping first and second sleeve portions have at least sufficient overlapping travel to help maintain the first abutment ring and second abutment ring in substantial co-axial alignment while the spring is anywhere between a substantially relaxed condition and a substantially compressed condition.

128. (New) A packing cartridge according to Claim 65, further comprising: a means for axially retaining the first and second sleeve portions together.

129. (New) The packing cartridge according to Claim 128, wherein the means for axially retaining comprises:

a. a retaining groove and a receiving groove cooperatively positioned in the first and second sleeve portions; and

b. a snap ring positioned in the retaining groove for snapping into the receiving groove, whereby when the snap ring in the retaining groove is moved axially into alignment with the receiving groove, the snap ring snaps into the receiving groove and resists separation of the first and second sleeve portions.

130. (New) The packing cartridge according to Claim 128, wherein the means for axially retaining comprises:

a. a retaining groove and an interference surface cooperatively positioned between the first and second sleeve portions; and

b. a resilient ring positioned in the retaining groove for frictionally engaging the interference surface, whereby when the resilient ring in the retaining groove is moved axially against the interference surface, the resilient ring frictionally engages the interference surface and resists separation of the first and second sleeve portions.

131. (New) The packing cartridge according to Claim 128, further comprising a spacer ring operatively positioned to cover the overlapping travel of the first and second sleeve portions.